



March 1996

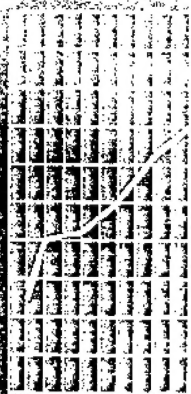
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Child Care

Australia



Statistics



NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in March 1996. It is a continuation of a series of surveys, on this topic, conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 1993. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on the supply of, and demand for, child care for children aged less than 12 years. Information was also collected on the use, or not, of the Childcare Cash Rebate as well as the working arrangements of parents with children under 12.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
.. not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these statistics and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Anne Bartlett on Sydney (02) 9268 4660.

T. J. Skinner
Acting Australian Statistician

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

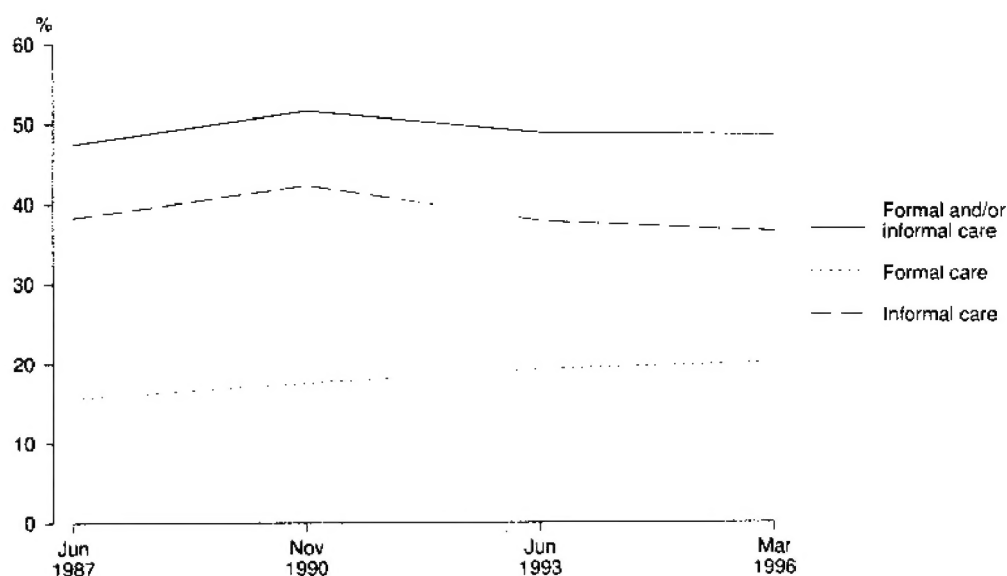
INTRODUCTION

Child care refers to arrangements (other than parental care) made for the care of children under 12 years of age. Formal child care is regulated care which takes place away from the child's home and includes attendance at preschool, a child care centre, family day care and occasional care. Informal care is care which is non-regulated and can take place in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by family members, friends, neighbours and paid baby sitters.

In March 1996, 1,501,800 children aged less than 12 years used some type of formal and/or informal child care, representing 48% of children in this age group (table 1). This proportion has changed only slightly since 1993 (49%), but continues the reduction in the use of care since the peak in 1990 (52%).

There were 624,400 children who used formal care in 1996, 20% of children under 12 years of age, and an increase from 18% in 1990. Informal care remained, however, the most frequently used child care arrangement by Australian families. In March 1996, 1,128,300 children used informal care, which represented 36% of all children under 12 years of age, down from 42% in 1990.

Child care arrangements



USE OF CHILD CARE

Types of care

The most commonly used formal care was preschool, attended by 32% (200,600) of children using formal care (table 2). This was followed by long day care, 177,700 (28%), before and after school care programs, 111,700 (18%) and family day care, 96,200 (15%).

The main providers of informal care were relatives other than brothers or sisters. Nearly two-thirds of children using informal care received care of this type (726,000).

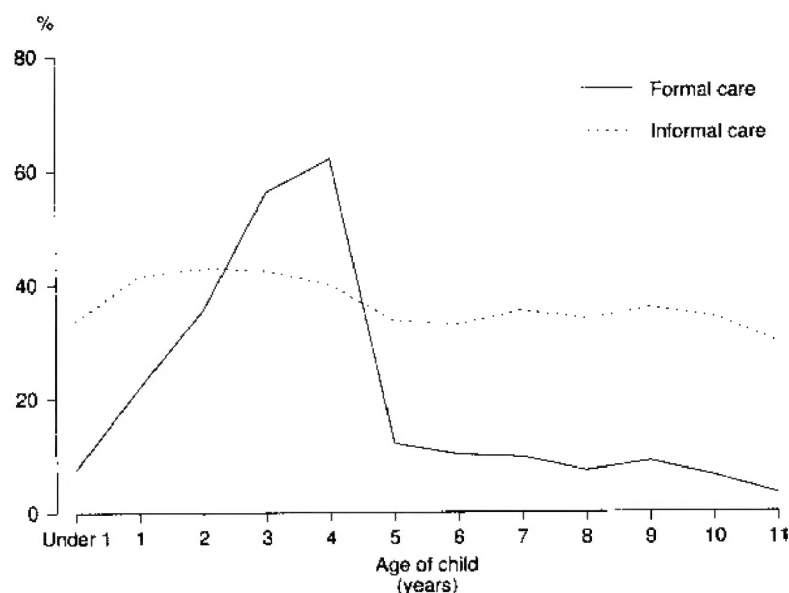
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

The majority of children using child care (75%) were in care for less than 20 hours per week (table 6). However, 43% of informal care was for less than five hours per week and 45% of preschool was for less than 10 hours per week. For children in long day care, 21% attended for 35 hours or more per week.

Age of children in care

Child care usage varied with age particularly for formal care (table 3). In 1996, the use of formal care by very young children was low (8% of children under one year), but increased rapidly from age one (22%) up to the age of four (62%). This reflects preschool attendance of 3–4 year old children. From age five, when most children had started school, the proportions of children using formal care dropped sharply (12% of children aged five) and continued to decrease as children grew older (6% of children aged 9–11).

Type of care



In 1996, the proportion of children using informal care was higher for children below school age, than for older children. Over 40% of children aged 1–4 years used formal care compared with around 34% of those aged 5–11 years.

Reasons for using care

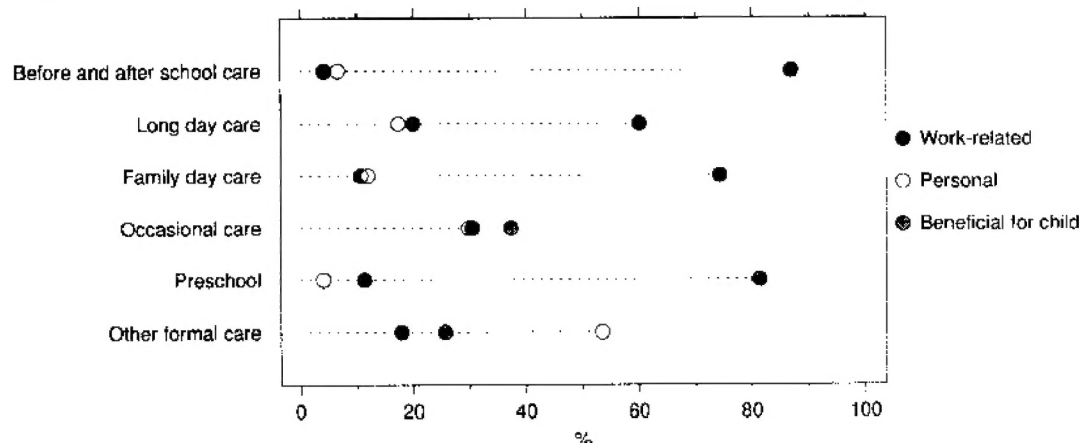
Reasons for using child care varied by the type of care used (table 8). Children who attended before and after school care programs, family day care and long day care used these types of care primarily because of the work-related reasons of their parents (87%, 74% and 60% respectively of all reasons given). Child care for work-related reasons also included care while parents were looking for work or studying/training for work.

In contrast 81% of those children who attended preschool did so mainly because parents felt it was beneficial for the child.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

The main reason given for using informal care was also related to parent's work, with 47% using informal care for this reason (table 9). However, parent's personal reasons were also given for 41% of children.

Main reason used formal care



COST OF CARE

Cost and type of care

The cost of care varied considerably depending on the type of care. Of those children who used informal care, 86% did so at no cost (table 10).

For 31% of children who attended long day care and 24% who attended family day care the cost was \$60 or more per week. In comparison, for the majority of children attending preschool, the cost was less than \$20 per week.

Weekly family income

In general, as family income increased the proportion of children who used care also increased (table 11), in reflection of the increasing proportion of families with both parents working. For children in families with a weekly family income of less than \$400, 43% used some form of care, compared with 75% of children in families with a weekly family income in excess of \$2,000.

Childcare Cash Rebate

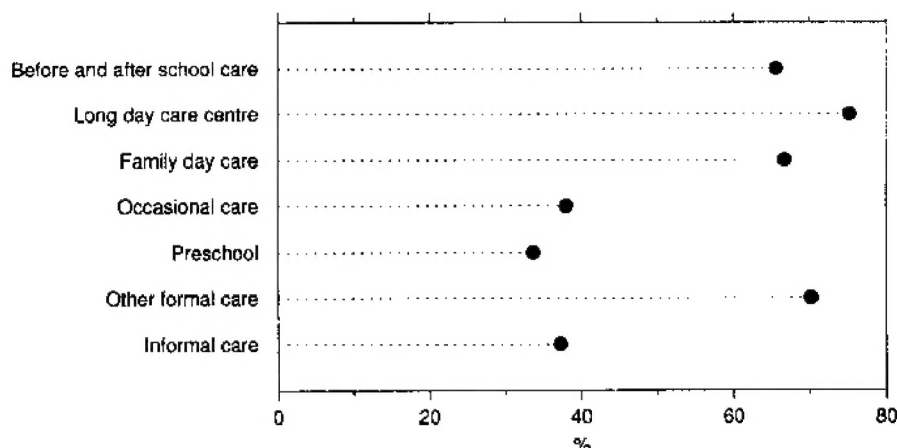
The Childcare Cash Rebate (CCR) is a non-means tested payment to families for work-related child care costs that exceed \$16.50 per week. The CCR was claimed for 278,600 children using formal and/or informal care. This represented a take-up rate (proportion of those eligible) of 56% (table 13).

The proportion of children for whom the CCR was claimed varied depending on the type of care. The take-up rate was over 65% for children using before and after school care, long day care and family day care (table 13). In comparison, the rebate was claimed for only 34% of eligible children attending preschool, and 38% of those eligible who used occasional care.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

The take-up rate for the CCR increased with income. Families with weekly incomes of \$1,500 to \$1,999 had the highest take-up rate of 70%, while families with incomes less than \$400 had the lowest rate (44%).

CCR take-up rate



For eligible children who used paid care for which the CCR was not claimed, the survey collected the main reason for not claiming the rebate (table 14). While not being aware of the rebate was a major reason for not claiming the CCR (61% for formal care and 42% for informal care), a sizeable proportion of families using informal care indicated that the carer not being registered was an important factor (44%).

DEMAND FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE

The survey also sought information from parents as to whether their child care requirements were met. Those families not using child care were asked if they would have liked to use child care if it were available. Those families already using child care were asked about their interest in additional care.

Changes in demand over time

The vast majority of families (over 90%) indicated they had no additional need for child care. This was the case for families not currently using any form of care, as well as for those using either formal or informal care. Around 8% of children (261,700) under 12 years of age were reported as requiring (additional) formal care in 1996 (table 15), a fall from 16% of children (489,200) in 1993. Over the same period, the number of Commonwealth supported child care places increased from 196,000 to 301,000¹. Readers should be aware there has been a change in question wording from the previous ABS Child Care Survey—see the Explanatory Notes. However, this is not expected to have had a major impact on the figures.

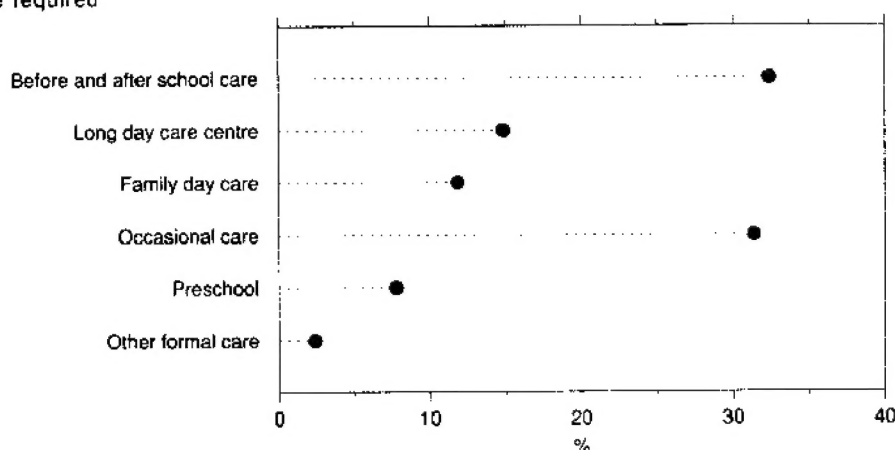
¹ Economic Planning Advisory Commission, *Future Child Care Provision in Australia*, November 1996.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Type of care required

In 1996, the main type of additional care required was before and after school care (32% or 84,900 of children requiring extra care) and occasional care (31% or 82,100) (table 16). The proportion requiring before and after school care has grown from 26% since 1993, reflecting the increasing proportions of families where both parents work full time. The proportion requiring occasional care has fallen from 39% in 1993 to 31% in 1996.

Type of (additional) formal care required



The level of demand and the type of formal care required varied between age groups. Demand was higher in the 0-4 age group with 11% of children (143,000) requiring (additional) formal care. Of these, 40% required occasional care (57,300) and 25% required long day care (36,300). In the 5-11 age group 7% of children (118,800) required (additional) formal care. Of these, 69% required before and after school care (81,600) and 21% required some form of occasional care (24,800).

Parental work remains the single largest reason for requiring (additional) formal care with 37% of children requiring care for this reason (table 17). Again differences are apparent between age groups.

For children aged 0-4 personal reasons were stated for 47% of children who required (additional) formal care, while work-related reasons were stated for 33%. The opposite pattern is observed in the 5-11 age group where work-related reasons were stated for 60% of children, and personal reasons were given for 30%.

For 41% of children who required (additional) formal care, the main reasons given for not using care were that none existed in their area or parents did not know of any in their area or there were no places in existing centres (table 21). However, for 16% of children, the parents said the care was too expensive. Inevitably, questions on additional child care are speculative in nature. This may be more so for some respondents than others. For 13% of children whose parents reported additional requirements, the parents indicated they had not checked whether appropriate child care was available.

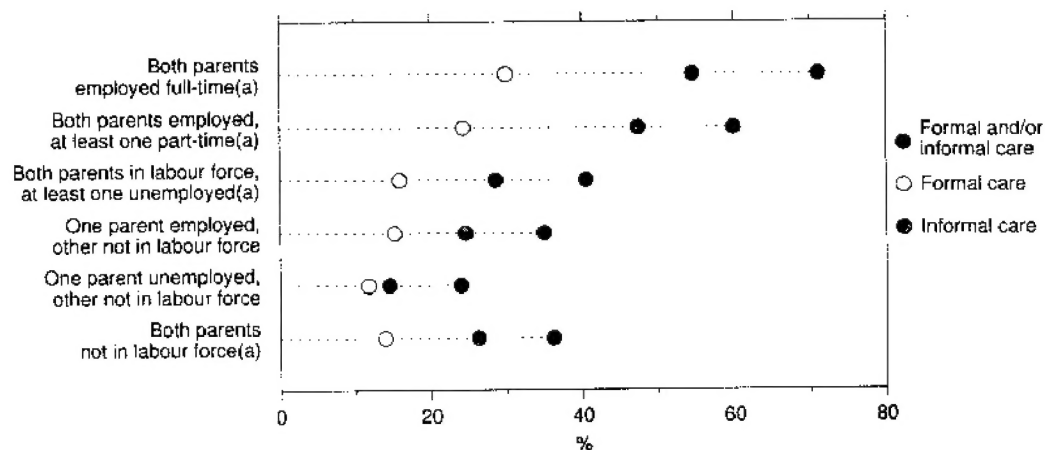
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

WORK AND CHILD CARE

Use of care by employed parents

As already noted, child care is linked to work commitments of parents, particularly mothers. In 1996, 47% of children were in families with both parents (or the lone parent) employed either full or part time (table 23). The proportion of all children under 12 years using child care was 71% for children with both parents (or the lone parent) working full time, and 60% for those with a parent working part time (and the other parent also employed, in the case of couple families). The lowest level of usage (24%) was by children in couple families where one parent was unemployed and the other not in the labour force.

Child care arrangements



(a) includes one parent families

Care for sick children

When a child falls sick and needs time off school or to be away from child care, alternative arrangements must be made to care for the child. For families where both parents are employed or for an employed lone parent, this may involve a parent taking time off work. Of the 872,900 families with children where both parents worked, 56% had children who had been sick and needed to be away from school or child care in the previous six months.

In close to half (49%) of couple families with a sick child and both parents employed, one or other parent took time off (table 26). More mothers (41%) compared with fathers (21%) took time off. A significant proportion of parents who took time off work to care for sick children did not take formal leave. Almost 33% of mothers and 43% of fathers who took time off either used flexitime, worked at home or made up time. Mothers who took time off were more likely than fathers to take unpaid leave (28% compared with 16%). Both mothers and fathers who took time off were more likely to take sick leave (23% and 21% respectively), than they were to take family or special leave (13% and 16% respectively).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

A similar proportion of employed lone parents took time off to care for sick children (50%) compared with couple families with both parents employed (49%) (table 27). Lone parents who worked full time were more likely to take time off (70%) than those who worked part time (37%). Employed lone parents who took time off mostly used unpaid leave (39%) and sick leave (29%).

Half of all families with employed parents where a child was sick used arrangements other than a parent taking time off from work. In the majority of these cases children were cared for by a relative.

Balancing work and family responsibility

Increasingly, employers and workplaces acknowledge the need for workers to balance work and family responsibilities. A range of provisions have been introduced over the years which assist families to do this. These include flexitime, permanent part-time work, home-based work and job sharing. In families with at least one parent employed, parents were asked if they used any of these work arrangements to assist them to care for their children.

Mothers were more likely to make use of particular work arrangements than fathers (69% compared with 26%) (table 29). Flexible working hours were the most frequently used option for both fathers (16%) and mothers (31%). However, 29% of mothers and 1% of fathers indicated they chose permanent part-time work so that they would not need to use child care. For parents with children under 12, around 7% of fathers and 18% of mothers worked at home so that they could also care for their children.

	JUNE 1987.....		NOVEMBER 1990		JUNE 1993.....		MARCH 1996....	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Child care arrangements(a)	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS								
Children who used formal and/or informal care								
Formal care only	200.9	16.5	177.1	14.2	245.9	19.0	276.8	21.4
Informal care only	379.0	31.2	408.9	32.7	341.7	26.4	321.4	24.9
Formal and informal care	147.0	12.1	170.1	13.6	193.3	14.9	196.5	15.2
Total	726.9	59.9	756.2	60.4	780.9	60.4	794.7	61.5
Total formal care	347.8	28.6	347.3	27.8	439.2	34.0	473.3	36.6
Total informal care	580.3	47.8	579.1	46.3	535.0	41.4	517.9	40.1
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	487.4	40.1	494.9	39.6	512.7	39.6	497.7	38.5
Total children aged 0-4 years	1 214.3	100.0	1 251.1	100.0	1 293.5	100.0	1 292.4	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS								
Children who used formal and/or informal care								
Formal care only	63.1	3.8	100.9	5.8	92.8	5.2	96.7	5.3
Informal care only	536.1	32.0	609.1	34.8	567.0	31.6	556.1	30.7
Formal and informal care	44.3	2.6	82.3	4.7	64.2	3.6	54.4	3.0
Total	643.4	38.4	792.3	45.2	724.1	40.4	707.2	39.1
Total formal care	107.4	6.4	183.2	10.5	157.0	8.8	151.1	8.3
Total informal care	526.0	31.4	691.4	39.5	631.2	35.2	610.5	33.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 030.1	61.6	960.3	54.8	1 068.3	59.6	1 103.3	60.9
Total children aged 5-11 years	1 673.6	100.0	1 752.6	100.0	1 792.4	100.0	1 810.5	100.0
ALL CHILDREN								
Children who used formal and/or informal care								
Formal care only	264.0	9.1	278.0	9.3	338.7	11.0	373.5	12.0
Informal care only	915.1	31.7	1 018.1	33.9	908.7	29.4	877.5	28.3
Formal and informal care	191.3	6.6	252.5	8.4	257.5	8.3	250.9	8.1
Total	1 370.3	47.4	1 548.5	51.6	1 504.9	48.8	1 501.8	48.4
Total formal care	455.2	15.7	530.4	17.7	596.2	19.3	624.4	20.1
Total informal care	1 106.4	38.3	1 270.5	42.3	1 166.2	37.8	1 128.3	36.4
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 517.6	52.5	1 455.2	48.4	1 581.0	51.2	1 601.0	51.6
Total children	2 887.9	100.0	3 003.7	100.0	3 085.9	100.0	3 102.8	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

	JUNE 1987.....			NOVEMBER 1990.....			JUNE 1993.....			MARCH 1996.....		
Type of care(a)	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)												
Formal care												
Before and after school care program(b)	..	..	..	—	44.0	44.0	*1.8	84.0	85.8	*4.4	107.4	111.7
Long day care centre(c)	123.6	31.0	154.6	99.4	13.7	113.1	137.0	9.7	146.7	170.8	6.9	177.7
Family day care	39.2	12.7	51.8	57.1	21.0	78.1	61.9	18.8	80.7	74.6	21.6	96.2
Occasional care(d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	44.5	5.4	50.0	47.5	*4.9	52.4
Preschool	189.7	63.1	253.4	160.7	106.5	267.2	194.4	42.5	236.9	188.2	12.3	200.6
Other formal care (d)(e)	11.9	3.4	15.7	49.3	8.1	57.4	27.6	*2.4	30.0	17.9	*4.3	22.2
Total children who used formal care	347.8	107.4	455.2	347.3	183.2	530.4	439.2	157.0	596.2	473.3	151.1	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	200.9	63.1	264.0	177.1	100.9	278.0	245.9	92.8	338.7	276.8	96.7	373.5
Informal care												
Brother/sister care	26.2	161.0	187.1	23.4	173.1	196.5	21.9	137.2	159.1	22.8	142.3	165.1
Other relative	363.4	266.3	629.7	420.2	360.8	781.0	384.8	322.3	707.1	391.0	335.0	726.0
Non-relative	183.7	203.8	387.5	179.6	232.6	412.2	163.9	225.1	389.1	128.9	189.1	318.0
Total children who used informal care	526.0	580.3	1 106.3	579.1	691.4	1 270.5	535.0	631.2	1 166.2	517.9	610.5	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	379.6	536.1	915.1	408.9	609.1	1 018.1	341.7	567.0	908.7	321.4	556.1	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	726.9	643.4	1 370.3	756.2	792.3	1 548.5	780.9	724.0	1 504.9	794.7	707.2	1 501.8
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	487.4	1 030.1	1 517.6	494.9	960.3	1 455.2	512.7	1 068.3	1 581.0	497.7	1 103.3	1 601.0
Total children	1 214.3	1 673.5	2 887.9	1 251.1	1 752.6	3 003.7	1 293.5	1 792.4	3 085.9	1 292.4	1 810.5	3 102.8

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(b) Before and after school care programs were not identified in 1987.

(c) 'Child care centre' in 1987.

(d) Occasional care was not separately identified prior to 1993. It was part of the category 'Other formal care'.

(e) 'Not able to be classified' in and 1987.

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....									
Type of care(a)	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	9-11	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	—	—	—	—	*4.4	14.9	53.7	38.8	111.7
Long day care centre	9.1	26.4	47.1	52.1	36.1	*4.1	n.p.	n.p.	177.7
Family day care	7.3	17.8	23.6	16.3	9.6	*4.3	10.7	6.6	96.2
Occasional care	*2.5	11.0	14.5	15.1	*4.4	*1.1	*2.6	*1.2	52.4
Preschool	—	—	*4.3	65.6	118.3	11.0	*1.3	—	200.6
Other formal care	*1.6	*3.7	*4.2	6.3	*2.1	—	*2.3	*1.9	22.2
Total children who used formal care	19.9	56.7	91.4	145.2	160.1	32.0	70.8	48.3	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	11.6	34.8	50.6	84.9	94.9	19.9	45.8	31.0	373.5
Informal care									
Brother/sister care	*2.9	*3.5	*3.9	6.3	6.2	9.8	41.5	91.0	165.1
Other relative	68.7	86.4	83.9	79.2	72.7	55.8	153.0	126.2	726.0
Non-relative	18.5	23.4	27.4	30.2	29.4	30.1	90.6	68.4	318.0
Total children who used informal care	87.7	107.4	110.2	109.4	103.2	88.8	263.9	257.8	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	79.4	85.5	69.3	49.1	38.1	76.6	238.8	240.6	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	99.3	142.2	160.7	194.3	198.1	108.6	309.7	288.9	1 501.8
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	162.1	115.8	96.3	63.8	59.7	154.6	463.1	485.5	1 601.0
Total children	261.4	258.0	257.1	258.1	257.9	263.2	772.8	774.4	3 102.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	7.6	22.0	35.5	56.3	62.1	12.2	9.2	6.2	20.1
Total children who used informal care	33.6	41.6	42.9	42.4	40.0	33.7	34.1	33.3	36.4
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	38.0	55.1	62.5	75.3	76.8	41.3	40.1	37.3	48.4
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(a)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	35.4	33.5	16.6	14.8	5.7	*1.2	*1.1	*3.5	111.7
Long day care centre	55.2	35.4	49.8	11.1	16.7	*4.0	*1.6	*4.0	177.7
Family day care	31.3	22.4	19.6	8.2	7.8	*2.8	*1.5	*2.5	96.2
Occasional care	12.4	17.8	7.9	*3.9	*5.3	*2.3	*0.6	*2.2	52.4
Preschool	81.7	53.2	26.2	16.4	15.3	*3.3	*1.7	*2.8	200.6
Other formal care	6.7	*4.1	*3.0	*2.9	*3.5	n.p.	n.p.	*1.2	22.2
Total children who used formal care	212.8	153.8	119.8	53.3	50.4	12.7	6.2	15.5	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	128.4	89.9	77.1	28.7	29.4	6.8	*3.9	9.2	373.5
Informal care									
Brother/sister care	55.0	41.5	28.1	16.3	12.4	*5.3	*1.9	*4.4	165.1
Other relative	238.2	203.1	116.6	63.8	65.2	23.4	*4.5	11.1	726.0
Non-relative	91.3	77.5	60.1	29.1	40.3	7.3	*5.3	7.1	318.0
Total children who used informal care	361.2	300.2	191.0	101.3	109.6	33.2	10.9	20.9	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	276.9	236.3	148.3	76.8	88.6	27.3	8.6	14.7	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	489.7	390.1	268.1	130.0	139.0	40.0	14.8	30.1	1 501.8
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	557.8	367.6	310.9	108.6	171.4	43.5	17.9	23.2	1 601.0
Total children	1 047.5	757.7	579.0	238.7	310.4	83.5	32.7	53.3	3 102.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	3.4	4.4	2.9	6.2	1.8	*1.4	*3.4	*6.6	3.6
Long day care centre	5.3	4.7	8.6	4.7	5.4	*4.8	*4.9	*7.4	5.7
Family day care	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.5	2.5	*3.4	*4.4	*4.7	3.1
Occasional care	1.2	2.3	1.4	*1.6	*1.7	*2.7	*1.9	*4.0	1.7
Preschool	7.8	7.0	4.5	6.9	4.9	*3.9	*5.1	*5.3	6.5
Other formal care	0.6	*0.5	*0.5	*1.2	*1.1	n.p.	n.p.	*2.2	0.7
Total children who used formal care	20.3	20.3	20.7	22.3	16.2	15.2	18.9	29.0	20.1
Total children who used formal care only	12.3	11.9	13.3	12.0	9.5	8.1	*11.9	17.3	12.0
Informal care									
Brother/sister care	5.3	5.5	4.9	6.8	4.0	*6.4	*5.9	*8.3	5.3
Other relative	22.7	26.8	20.1	26.8	21.0	28.1	*13.8	20.9	23.4
Non-relative	8.7	10.2	10.4	12.2	13.0	8.7	*16.2	13.4	10.2
Total children who used informal care	34.5	39.6	33.0	42.4	35.3	39.8	33.3	39.2	36.4
Total children who used informal care only	26.4	31.2	25.6	32.2	28.6	32.7	26.4	27.5	28.3
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	46.7	51.5	46.3	54.5	44.8	47.9	45.2	56.5	48.4
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	53.3	48.5	53.7	45.5	55.2	52.1	54.8	43.5	51.6
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(a)	FAMILY TYPE.....		MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME.....		AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE.....		Total
	Couple	One parent	English	Other	State capital cities	Balance of Australia	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	95.1	16.6	98.3	13.4	87.2	24.5	111.7
Long day care centre	144.7	33.0	162.7	15.1	107.5	70.3	177.7
Family day care	79.9	16.3	88.8	7.3	41.8	54.4	96.2
Occasional care	48.6	*3.8	50.1	*2.3	30.0	22.4	52.4
Preschool	178.7	21.8	180.7	19.9	120.9	79.6	200.6
Other formal care	19.6	*2.6	n.p.	n.p.	13.8	8.4	22.2
Total children who used formal care	535.0	89.4	567.1	57.2	382.0	242.3	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	328.3	45.2	330.4	43.1	225.1	148.4	373.5
Informal care							
Brother/sister care	135.1	30.0	145.8	19.3	94.3	70.8	165.1
Other relative	583.2	142.8	646.6	79.4	420.9	305.1	726.0
Non-relative	268.3	49.8	297.3	20.8	190.8	127.2	318.0
Total children who used informal care	926.6	201.8	1 013.1	115.3	656.8	471.6	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	720.0	157.5	776.3	101.1	499.9	377.6	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	1 254.9	246.9	1 343.5	158.4	881.9	619.9	1 501.8
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 398.9	202.0	1367.1	233.9	919.5	681.4	1 601.0
Total children	2 653.9	449.0	2 710.6	392.2	1 801.5	1 301.4	3 102.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	20.2	19.9	20.9	14.6	21.2	18.6	20.1
Total children who used informal care	34.9	44.9	37.4	29.4	36.5	36.2	36.4
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	47.3	55.0	49.6	40.4	49.0	47.6	48.4
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(b)	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 or more	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	56.6	29.3	25.0	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	111.7
Long day care centre	5.7	34.4	58.1	31.8	10.8	11.7	14.5	10.7	177.7
Family day care	14.2	21.7	22.6	15.2	8.6	*5.3	*3.9	*4.7	96.2
Occasional care	27.5	16.2	5.8	*1.8	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	52.4
Preschool	26.4	63.2	96.1	9.0	*3.9	*1.3	—	n.p.	200.6
Other formal care	13.8	*4.1	*4.3	—	—	—	—	—	22.2
Total children who used formal care	126.1	155.3	199.5	58.3	26.3	21.1	20.2	17.5	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	69.2	86.5	124.9	32.8	15.9	16.1	13.9	14.1	373.5
Informal care									
Brother/sister care	114.4	32.2	11.9	*4.4	n.p.	*1.7	—	n.p.	165.1
Other relative	288.1	158.6	126.9	64.1	18.0	10.4	13.3	46.5	726.0
Non-relative	159.6	71.8	50.1	19.9	*5.4	*3.8	*1.8	5.6	318.0
Total children who used informal care	483.0	253.8	192.1	89.3	24.2	18.1	14.6	53.4	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	378.3	188.5	146.2	73.8	16.7	14.1	14.0	45.8	877.5
Children who used formal and/or informal care	458.3	313.2	350.9	158.1	53.6	42.4	43.8	81.4	1 501.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	20.2	24.9	31.9	9.3	4.2	3.4	3.2	2.8	100.0
Total children who used informal care	42.8	22.5	17.0	7.9	2.1	1.6	1.3	4.7	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	30.5	20.9	23.4	10.5	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.4	100.0

(a) Where a child attends more than one type of care, the hours are added together.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(b)	Weekends only	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	—	27.3	25.7	16.6	14.0	28.0	111.7
Long day care centre	—	37.6	55.2	28.5	15.3	41.0	177.7
Family day care	*1.5	23.8	21.6	14.6	12.6	22.0	96.2
Occasional care	—	32.1	12.3	*3.8	*3.0	*1.2	52.4
Preschool	—	36.3	73.6	51.0	22.6	17.2	200.6
Other formal care	—	11.7	6.1	*3.3	n.p.	n.p.	22.2
Total children who used formal care	*1.4	143.5	179.0	115.9	69.3	115.2	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	n.p.	77.1	105.7	65.3	n.p.	79.5	373.5
Informal care							
Brother/sister care	27.7	67.2	25.8	10.7	12.7	21.0	165.1
Other relative	113.8	323.4	116.2	54.3	37.6	80.7	726.0
Non-relative	40.2	151.5	47.6	30.7	16.9	31.2	318.0
Total children who used informal care	160.0	475.2	186.5	100.0	68.6	138.0	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	122.1	350.6	141.2	80.0	57.4	126.2	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	122.8	440.7	296.0	213.3	156.8	272.3	1 501.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	*0.2	23.0	28.7	18.6	11.1	18.4	100.0
Total children who used informal care	14.2	42.1	16.5	8.9	6.1	12.2	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	8.2	29.3	19.7	14.2	10.4	18.1	100.0

(a) Where a child attended care on both weekdays and weekends, this was recorded only under the relevant number of weekdays.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of formal care(a)	MAIN REASON USED FORMAL CARE....				ALL REASONS USED FORMAL CARE.....				
	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS									
Before and after school care program	*3.8	—	n.p.	n.p.	*4.1	—	n.p.	n.p.	*4.4
Long day care centre	102.2	30.1	34.2	*4.3	111.6	51.6	58.1	9.6	170.8
Family day care	53.5	9.3	9.6	*2.3	57.0	16.5	15.9	*3.9	74.6
Occasional care	n.p.	15.4	19.2	n.p.	13.9	23.8	24.2	*1.5	47.5
Preschool	21.6	7.6	153.3	5.7	36.6	32.2	171.1	14.5	188.2
Other formal care	n.p.	9.9	*5.4	n.p.	*2.9	12.1	6.7	*0.9	17.9
Total children aged 0-4 years who used formal care	178.3	67.3	214.9	12.8	205.3	124.3	260.5	29.4	473.3
ALL CHILDREN(b)									
Before and after school care program	97.0	7.5	*4.8	*2.4	99.4	10.2	6.6	*3.4	111.7
Long day care centre	106.7	31.0	35.6	*4.3	116.9	53.2	59.8	9.6	177.7
Family day care	71.5	11.5	10.4	*2.8	75.9	19.4	17.1	*5.0	96.2
Occasional care	16.0	15.6	19.6	*1.2	17.5	24.3	24.7	*2.2	52.4
Preschool	22.6	8.3	163.1	6.5	39.0	33.4	181.5	17.4	200.6
Other formal care	n.p.	11.9	5.7	n.p.	*4.6	14.0	7.2	*2.1	22.2
Total children who used formal care	296.5	79.9	230.6	17.3	327.4	141.4	279.2	37.7	624.4

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(b) Includes children aged 5-11 years.

Type of informal care(a)	MAIN REASON USED INFORMAL CARE.....				ALL REASONS USED INFORMAL CARE.....				
	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS									
Brother/sister care	*5.0	16.1	n.p.	n.p.	6.5	17.7	n.p.	n.p.	22.8
Other relative	167.2	184.2	12.9	26.7	175.6	202.6	27.9	41.6	391.0
Non-relative	62.7	53.5	6.8	5.9	66.0	63.5	9.5	10.2	128.9
Total children aged 0-4 years who used informal care	225.0	240.7	19.5	32.7	236.0	268.0	36.3	49.9	517.9
CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS									
Brother/sister care	72.8	61.9	*1.5	6.2	77.6	69.5	*2.7	9.2	142.3
Other relative	163.4	119.9	10.2	41.5	174.3	139.0	17.4	53.8	335.0
Non-relative	102.6	60.9	7.2	18.5	110.4	73.1	10.0	25.2	189.1
Total children aged 5-11 years who used informal care	307.7	223.5	18.0	61.2	325.9	253.7	27.8	78.5	610.5
ALL CHILDREN									
Brother/sister care	77.8	78.0	*2.3	7.1	84.1	87.2	*3.7	10.9	165.1
Other relative	330.6	304.1	23.1	68.2	349.9	341.6	45.3	95.4	726.0
Non-relative	165.3	114.3	13.9	24.4	176.4	136.6	19.5	35.4	318.0
Total children who used informal care	532.7	464.3	37.4	93.9	562.0	521.8	64.0	128.3	1 128.3

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(b)	No cost	\$1- \$9	\$10- \$19	\$20- \$39	\$40- \$59	\$60- \$79	\$80- \$99	\$100 or more	Total(c)
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	*4.8	39.4	26.0	32.8	5.7	*1.0	*1.6	—	111.7
Long day care centre	*1.9	16.8	24.5	49.7	27.7	16.1	11.4	27.8	177.7
Family day care	*3.2	22.9	19.8	16.3	9.9	10.6	*4.8	7.7	96.2
Occasional care	*2.7	20.6	10.5	13.8	*2.6	*1.1	n.p.	n.p.	52.4
Preschool	19.8	63.2	51.2	39.3	15.2	5.6	*2.7	*2.7	200.6
Other formal care	7.7	8.4	*3.1	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	22.2
Total children who used formal care	35.5	153.8	126.1	146.7	62.3	33.4	21.5	41.7	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	22.7	95.4	73.5	84.3	35.3	21.3	11.8	27.6	373.5
Informal care									
Brother/sister care	160.4	n.p.	*2.3	n.p.	—	—	—	—	165.1
Other relative	693.2	*4.2	7.6	8.0	6.4	*2.4	*1.4	*2.8	726.0
Non-relative	196.7	19.8	28.6	34.2	17.0	8.6	*3.6	8.8	318.0
Total children who used informal care	971.3	25.8	36.4	43.2	22.7	11.0	*5.0	11.9	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	760.9	20.8	24.5	31.2	16.7	8.1	*4.2	10.4	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	794.9	168.1	146.8	175.4	82.9	45.0	26.4	58.0	1 501.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	5.7	24.6	20.2	23.5	10.0	5.3	3.4	6.7	100.0
Total children who used informal care	86.1	2.3	3.2	3.8	2.0	1.0	*0.4	1.1	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	52.9	11.2	9.8	11.7	5.5	3.0	1.8	3.9	100.0

(a) Where a child attends more than one type of care the costs are added together.

(c) Includes 'not stated' for weekly cost of care.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care(a)	Less than \$400	\$400- \$499	\$500- \$599	\$600- \$799	\$800- \$999	\$1 000- \$1 499	\$1 500- \$1 999	\$2 000 and over	Don't know/ Not stated	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)										
Formal care										
Before and after school care	6.2	5.8	9.2	11.8	16.9	32.2	14.4	10.6	*4.6	111.7
Long day care centre	29.1	16.6	13.1	26.9	28.9	33.1	13.2	6.9	9.9	177.7
Family day care	16.2	8.5	8.8	15.2	13.6	19.1	5.6	*3.7	5.5	96.2
Occasional care	6.3	*4.7	*2.4	10.6	8.1	10.4	*2.1	*3.5	*4.3	52.4
Preschool	28.6	21.4	13.8	43.9	33.3	28.7	11.1	8.1	11.7	200.6
Other formal care	*2.7	*2.6	*0.7	*5.2	*4.2	*2.6	*1.1	*2.3	*0.8	22.2
Total children who used formal care	86.2	56.0	46.0	107.0	99.4	118.2	45.0	33.5	33.1	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	57.4	35.0	26.3	68.7	63.3	65.1	22.5	13.8	21.5	373.5
Informal care										
Brother/sister care	27.8	11.6	7.5	28.1	26.6	32.2	10.4	9.6	11.3	165.1
Other relative	128.6	64.8	60.3	132.8	113.2	122.4	34.7	28.4	40.8	726.0
Non-relative	37.0	18.1	24.2	44.8	43.3	69.2	33.7	33.6	14.1	318.0
Total children who used informal care	181.3	88.5	86.7	194.4	171.3	207.2	73.1	63.2	62.7	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	152.5	67.5	67.0	156.1	135.1	154.1	50.6	43.5	51.0	877.5
Children who used formal and/or informal care	238.7	123.5	113.0	263.1	234.5	272.2	95.6	77.0	84.1	1 501.8
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	314.3	178.6	157.9	305.2	234.3	188.6	56.1	25.9	140.1	1 601.0
Total children	553.0	302.1	270.9	568.3	468.9	460.8	151.7	102.9	224.2	3 102.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)										
Total children who used formal care	15.6	18.5	17.0	18.8	21.2	25.6	29.7	32.5	14.8	20.1
Total children who used informal care	32.8	29.3	32.0	34.2	36.5	45.0	48.2	61.5	27.9	36.4
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	43.2	40.9	41.7	46.3	50.0	59.1	63.0	74.8	37.5	48.4

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

WEEKLY COST OF CARE.....

	No cost	\$1- \$9	\$10- \$19	\$20- \$39	\$40- \$59	\$60- \$99	\$100- more	Total(a)
Weekly family income	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FORMAL CARE								
Less than \$400	5.2	21.1	15.9	20.4	6.9	*2.8	*1.4	73.6
\$400-\$499	*3.3	9.7	14.3	8.8	4.5	n.p.	n.p.	44.2
\$500-\$599	n.p.	11.3	8.7	6.2	5.5	*2.6	n.p.	36.9
\$600-\$799	*3.7	21.7	21.4	21.5	6.4	*4.2	6.5	85.6
\$800-\$999	5.8	11.3	13.4	19.1	8.9	14.0	6.8	79.3
\$1 000-\$1 499	4.8	10.1	11.4	16.8	12.4	14.3	18.4	88.8
\$1 500-\$1 999	n.p.	n.p.	*4.1	7.1	6.1	6.1	7.3	34.5
\$2 000 and over	n.p.	n.p.	*2.8	8.2	*3.7	*3.9	5.8	26.9
Don't know/not stated	*1.5	4.8	*3.5	5.9	*3.8	*2.0	*3.6	26.8
Total families who used formal care	27.7	95.0	95.4	114.0	58.2	52.0	51.6	496.6
TOTAL FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE								
Less than \$400	101.5	21.4	16.3	23.3	8.2	*3.9	*1.5	176.4
\$400-\$499	41.7	9.2	14.3	10.2	4.6	*2.7	*1.5	84.6
\$500-\$599	36.6	11.3	8.3	7.1	6.4	*3.8	*1.0	75.0
\$600-\$799	83.6	20.8	22.2	22.8	9.0	6.6	8.8	173.9
\$800-\$999	74.2	11.0	14.6	24.0	10.6	14.8	9.8	159.0
\$1 000-\$1 499	81.5	9.5	12.7	20.0	13.7	19.9	24.1	181.9
\$1 500-\$1 999	21.3	*2.6	5.1	7.4	5.1	8.8	10.6	60.8
\$2 000 and over	15.3	*1.6	*2.6	7.7	*3.6	6.6	10.5	48.4
Don't know/not stated	29.0	5.6	*4.1	6.2	*4.0	*3.2	*3.8	57.8
Total families who used formal and/or informal care	484.8	93.2	100.2	128.7	65.2	70.2	71.6	1 017.7

(a) Includes 'not stated' for weekly cost of care.

WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME.....

Type of care	Less than \$400	\$400- \$499	\$500- \$599	\$600- \$799	\$800- \$999	\$1 000- \$1 999	\$2 000 and over	Total(a)
CLAIMED OR INTENDED TO CLAIM ('000)								
Formal care								
Before and after school care program	*1.5	n.p.	*5.1	*5.2	8.0	6.6	5.9	52.8
Long day care centre	12.3	8.5	5.6	10.6	21.0	10.5	5.7	102.0
Family day care	*4.0	*3.6	*3.9	*5.2	8.5	*3.6	*3.5	45.5
Occasional care	n.p.	*1.2	*0.2	*1.3	*1.7	*0.6	—	11.8
Preschool	*3.3	*3.8	*2.2	9.5	6.2	*3.1	*2.4	35.5
Total(b)	23.4	16.4	16.6	31.3	45.2	24.1	16.6	242.7
Informal care	*2.3	n.p.	*2.7	7.3	*2.0	*5.3	11.0	43.4
Total children for whom the CCR was claimed(b)	25.7	16.5	19.3	37.6	46.8	28.6	25.5	278.6

ELIGIBLE ('000)(c)

Formal care								
Before and after school care program	*3.8	*2.5	6.9	8.2	13.5	8.6	7.9	80.3
Long day care centre	21.5	10.3	9.0	16.3	24.5	11.7	6.3	135.4
Family day care	7.8	6.0	5.7	8.5	10.8	*5.4	*3.7	68.1
Occasional care	*4.5	*3.1	*1.3	*4.7	5.7	*1.2	*1.3	31.1
Preschool	15.1	12.7	6.6	22.9	16.7	6.7	*4.7	105.4
Total(b)	52.7	31.5	28.2	58.0	68.0	32.4	22.6	401.1
Informal care	7.2	*3.8	6.5	13.3	17.5	13.0	20.0	116.7
Total eligible children(b)	59.0	34.3	34.1	69.3	84.4	40.8	37.6	495.6

TAKE-UP RATE (%) (d)

Formal care								
Before and after school care program	*38.8	n.p.	73.2	63.4	59.1	76.3	74.7	65.7
Long day care centre	57.4	81.9	61.9	65.5	85.6	89.5	89.8	75.3
Family day care	51.8	60.0	68.0	60.9	78.5	66.3	*95.8	66.7
Occasional care	n.p.	*38.4	*15.9	*27.7	*29.7	*46.3	—	38.0
Preschool	22.1	29.7	*33.0	41.3	36.9	46.4	*51.6	33.7
Total(b)	44.3	52.1	59.0	54.0	66.5	74.5	73.4	60.5
Informal care	*32.1	n.p.	40.8	54.8	*11.6	41.1	55.1	37.2
Total eligible children(b)	43.5	48.2	56.6	54.2	55.5	70.2	68.0	56.2

(a) Includes 'not stated/don't know' for weekly family income.

(b) Components do not add to total as the CCR could be claimed for more than one type of care per child.

(c) Children who used work-related care for which their parents paid, where the total fees for work-related care for the family were at least \$16.50, and the family had not already received the maximum weekly rebate allowable.

(d) Children for whom the parent claimed or intended to claim the CCR, as a proportion of eligible children.

	FORMAL CARE..		INFORMAL CARE	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
<i>Main reason CCR not claimed</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
.....				
Not aware of rebate	96.0	60.6	30.9	42.2
Carer not registered	*4.3	*2.7	32.2	43.9
Assumed not eligible	20.7	13.1	n.p.	n.p.
Not worth the trouble	20.8	13.2	n.p.	n.p.
Other	16.6	10.5	7.3	9.9
Total eligible children for whom the CCR was not claimed	158.4	100.0	73.3	100.0
.....				

	NOVEMBER 1996		JUNE 1993.....		MARCH 1996.....	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Whether (additional) formal care required	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	85.4	6.8	99.4	7.7	57.6	4.5
Currently use informal care only	111.5	8.9	86.7	6.7	44.0	3.4
Use neither formal nor informal care	100.0	8.0	93.1	7.2	41.4	3.2
Total, (additional) formal care required	296.8	23.7	279.2	21.6	143.0	11.1
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	261.9	20.9	339.7	26.3	415.7	32.2
Currently use informal care only	297.4	23.8	255.0	19.7	277.4	21.5
Use neither formal nor informal care	394.9	31.6	419.6	32.4	456.3	35.3
Total, no (additional) formal care required	954.3	76.3	1 014.4	78.4	1 149.4	88.9
Total children	1 251.1	100.0	1 293.5	100.0	1 292.4	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	32.1	1.8	25.9	1.4	11.8	0.7
Currently use informal care only	104.0	5.9	88.6	4.9	57.7	3.2
Use neither formal nor informal care	81.1	4.6	95.5	5.3	49.3	2.7
Total, (additional) formal care required	217.3	12.4	210.1	11.7	118.8	6.6
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	151.0	8.6	131.1	7.3	139.3	7.7
Currently use informal care only	505.1	28.8	478.4	26.7	498.4	27.5
Use neither formal nor informal care	879.2	50.2	972.8	54.3	1 054.0	58.2
Total, no (additional) formal care required	1 535.3	87.6	1 582.3	88.3	1 691.7	93.4
Total children	1 752.6	100.0	1 792.4	100.0	1 810.5	100.0
ALL CHILDREN						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	117.5	3.9	125.4	4.1	69.4	2.2
Currently use informal care only	215.5	7.2	175.3	5.7	101.7	3.3
Use neither formal nor informal care	181.1	6.0	188.6	6.1	90.7	2.9
Total, (additional) formal care required	514.1	17.1	489.2	15.9	261.7	8.4
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	412.9	13.7	470.8	15.3	555.0	17.9
Currently use informal care only	802.6	26.7	733.4	23.8	775.8	25.0
Use neither formal nor informal care	1 274.1	42.4	1 392.4	45.1	1 510.3	48.7
Total, no (additional) formal care required	2 489.6	82.9	2 596.7	84.1	2 841.1	91.6
Total children	3 003.7	100.0	3 085.9	100.0	3 102.8	100.0

	NOVEMBER 1990..		JUNE 1993.....		MARCH 1996.....	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
<i>Main type of (additional) formal care required</i>	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
Before and after school care program	4.9	1.7	*2.9	*1.0	*3.3	*2.3
Long day care centre	74.2	25.0	56.4	20.2	n.p.	n.p.
Family day care	53.0	17.9	41.9	15.0	22.7	15.9
Occasional care(a)	..	..	141.4	50.6	57.3	40.0
Preschool	49.6	16.7	27.9	10.0	n.p.	n.p.
Other formal care(a)	115.1	38.8	8.7	3.1	*3.6	*2.5
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care</i>	296.8	100.0	279.2	100.0	143.0	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11						
Before and after school care program	123.9	57.0	122.2	58.2	81.6	68.7
Long day care centre	15.1	6.9	7.4	3.5	n.p.	n.p.
Family day care	22.6	10.4	18.3	8.7	6.3	5.3
Occasional care(a)	..	..	50.4	24.0	24.8	20.9
Preschool	4.7	2.2	*2.2	*1.0	n.p.	n.p.
Other formal care(a)	51.0	23.5	9.6	4.6	*2.8	*2.4
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care</i>	217.3	100.0	210.1	100.0	118.8	100.0
ALL CHILDREN						
Before and after school care program	128.8	25.1	125.1	25.6	84.9	32.4
Long day care centre	89.3	17.4	63.8	13.0	39.0	14.9
Family day care	75.7	14.7	60.2	12.3	29.0	11.1
Occasional care(a)	..	..	191.8	39.2	82.1	31.4
Preschool	54.3	10.6	30.0	6.1	20.3	7.8
Other formal care(a)	166.0	32.3	18.3	3.7	6.4	2.4
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care</i>	514.1	100.0	489.2	100.0	261.7	100.0

(a) Occasional care was not separately identified in the 1990 survey, it was part of the category 'Other formal care'.

	NOVEMBER 1990..		JUNE 1993.....		MARCH 1996.....	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Main reason (additional) formal care required	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
Work related						
Work	56.8	19.1	56.9	20.4	37.1	25.9
Looking for work	11.8	4.0	5.2	1.9	5.8	4.0
Studying/training for work(a)	7.5	2.5	10.4	3.7	*4.1	*2.8
Total work related reasons	76.2	25.7	72.5	26.0	46.9	32.8
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	..	..	*3.3	*2.3
Sport	8.1	2.7	9.7	3.5	*4.2	*3.0
Shopping	43.0	14.5	38.9	13.9	10.4	7.3
Entertainment/social activity	10.8	3.6	5.7	2.0	*3.9	*2.7
Give parents a break/time alone	65.7	22.1	72.5	26.0	30.0	21.0
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	15.7	5.3	15.7	5.6	7.4	5.1
Other	6.7	2.3	6.3	2.3	7.8	5.5
Total personal reasons	150.0	50.5	148.8	53.3	67.0	46.8
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	54.2	18.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Prepare for school	8.1	2.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total beneficial for child reasons	62.4	21.0	52.9	18.9	24.0	16.8
Other	8.4	2.8	5.0	1.8	*5.1	*3.6
Total children who required (additional) formal care	296.8	100.0	279.2	100.0	143.0	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11						
Work related						
Work	101.8	46.9	99.7	47.5	60.9	51.3
Looking for work	5.0	2.3	*4.4	*2.1	*4.9	*4.1
Studying/training for work(a)	10.6	4.9	9.6	4.5	*4.9	*4.2
Total work related reasons	117.5	54.1	113.7	54.1	70.8	59.6
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	..	..	*4.3	*3.6
Sport	3.9	1.8	5.3	2.5	*2.2	*1.8
Shopping	19.7	9.1	11.5	5.5	*2.9	*2.4
Entertainment/social activity	10.1	4.7	6.9	3.3	*1.6	*1.3
Give parents a break/time alone	25.1	11.6	29.9	14.2	11.9	10.1
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	9.5	4.4	14.8	7.1	*5.0	*4.2
Other	6.6	3.0	8.5	4.0	7.5	6.3
Total personal reasons	75.0	34.5	76.8	36.6	35.4	29.8
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	15.0	6.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Prepare for school	1.5	0.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total beneficial for child reasons	16.5	7.6	15.5	7.4	7.2	6.1
Other	8.4	3.9	*4.1	*2.0	*5.4	*4.5
Total children who required (additional) formal care	217.3	100.0	210.1	100.0	118.8	100.0

	NOVEMBER 1990..		JUNE 1993.....		MARCH 1996.....	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Main reason (additional) formal care required	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
ALL CHILDREN						
Work related						
Work	158.6	30.9	156.6	32.0	98.0	37.4
Looking for work	16.8	3.3	9.6	2.0	10.7	4.1
Studying/training for work(a)	18.2	3.5	19.9	4.1	9.0	3.4
Total work related reasons	193.6	37.7	186.2	38.1	117.7	44.9
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	..	..	7.6	2.9
Sport	12.0	2.3	14.9	3.0	6.4	2.5
Shopping	62.7	12.2	50.4	10.3	13.3	5.1
Entertainment/social activity	20.9	4.1	12.5	2.6	*5.5	*2.1
Give parents a break/time alone	90.8	17.7	102.4	20.9	41.9	16.0
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	25.2	4.9	30.6	6.2	12.4	4.7
Other	13.3	2.6	14.7	3.0	15.3	5.8
Total personal reasons	224.9	43.7	225.6	46.1	102.4	39.1
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	69.2	13.5	59.0	12.1	24.9	9.5
Prepare for school	9.6	1.9	9.3	1.9	6.3	2.4
Total beneficial for child reasons	78.8	15.3	68.4	14.0	31.2	11.9
Other	16.8	3.3	9.1	1.9	10.5	4.0
Total children who required (additional) formal care	514.1	100.0	489.2	100.0	261.7	100.0

(a) Prior to 1996, all study/training was classified as work related.

(b) In 1990, other personal reasons were included under the general 'Other' category.

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MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, Labour Force Status of Parents

	Both parents employed working full-time(a)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents not in the labour force(a)	Total
(Additional) formal care requirements	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
(Additional) formal care required							
Before and after school care program	25.9	37.0	n.p.	11.2	n.p.	7.2	84.9
Long day care centre	7.9	14.2	n.p.	8.8	n.p.	*4.1	39.0
Family day care	*3.2	13.5	*1.4	6.6	*2.1	*2.2	29.0
Occasional care	9.6	19.7	5.9	31.8	*2.4	12.6	82.1
Preschool	*1.4	6.6	*2.2	6.1	*1.5	*2.5	20.3
Other formal care	*1.4	*1.4	—	*2.4	—	*1.1	6.4
Total children who required (additional) formal care	49.4	92.4	15.5	66.9	7.8	29.7	261.7
(Additional) formal care not required	444.9	858.5	168.4	929.3	126.4	313.6	2 841.1
Total children	494.3	950.9	183.9	996.2	134.2	343.3	3 102.8

(a) Includes one parent families.

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MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, States and Territories

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
(Additional) formal care requirements	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
(Additional) formal care required									
Before and after school care program	29.6	24.5	12.0	9.0	6.6	*1.4	*0.9	*1.0	84.9
Long day care centre	16.8	9.5	7.3	*1.4	*1.2	*1.5	*0.9	*0.5	39.0
Family day care	8.2	7.7	*4.7	*4.1	*1.8	*1.7	n.p.	n.p.	29.0
Occasional care	25.6	21.4	14.4	6.6	10.3	*2.3	n.p.	n.p.	82.1
Preschool	11.9	*4.4	*1.2	*0.8	*1.3	n.p.	—	n.p.	20.3
Total children who required (additional) formal care(a)	92.0	70.0	40.7	23.2	21.9	7.6	*2.5	*3.8	261.7
(Additional) formal care not required	955.5	687.7	538.3	215.4	288.5	75.9	30.2	49.6	2 841.1
Total children(a)	1 047.5	757.7	579.0	238.7	310.4	83.5	32.7	53.3	3 102.8

(a) Includes children who required (additional) 'other' formal care.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....				
	Under 3	3-5	6-8	9-11	Total
(Additional) formal care requirements	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....					
(Additional) formal care required					
Before and after school care program	n.p.	n.p.	32.6	34.9	84.9
Long day care centre	22.6	15.4	n.p.	n.p.	39.0
Family day care	12.8	10.5	*4.0	*1.7	29.0
Occasional care	40.8	21.1	13.3	6.9	82.1
Preschool	*2.8	17.5	---	---	20.3
Total children who required (additional) formal care(a)	81.5	83.3	51.7	45.2	261.7
(Additional) formal care not required	694.9	695.9	721.0	729.3	2 841.1
Total children(a)	776.4	779.2	772.8	774.4	3 102.8

(a) Includes children who required (additional) 'other' formal care.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....				
	Under 3	3-5	6-8	9-11	Total
Main reason required (additional) formal care not used	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....					
None existed in area/don't know of any in area	11.0	18.1	15.5	17.9	62.5
Child too young/old	6.6	*2.9	n.p.	n.p.	10.6
Cost/too expensive	13.8	15.0	8.6	*5.1	42.5
Booked out/no places	20.9	17.9	*4.9	*1.3	44.9
Time/days available not suitable	*2.2	*2.7	*2.2	*3.1	10.2
Not flexible enough/not available at short notice	*3.1	*1.5	*2.1	*3.1	9.8
Had not yet applied	*4.3	*3.5	*1.1	*0.4	9.4
Made other arrangements	n.p.	*2.8	*3.3	n.p.	9.5
Other reason	*8.8	10.2	*4.5	*5.4	28.8
Not known whether care available(a)	10.0	8.7	9.1	5.8	33.5
Total children who required (additional) formal care	81.5	83.3	51.7	45.2	261.7

(a) The reason for not using (additional) formal care was not asked for these children.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS).....				
	Under 3	3-5	6-8	9-11	Total
Main reason (additional) formal care not required	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
No need	498.5	571.4	604.5	618.2	2 292.6
Child too young/old	69.5	9.1	*4.4	8.6	91.6
Cost/too expensive	15.7	15.2	12.7	13.9	57.4
Prefer to look after child	68.5	59.6	56.1	54.1	238.2
Prefer other type of care	18.0	15.6	15.7	12.0	61.2
Other reasons	18.1	20.4	22.7	18.3	79.6
No reason	6.7	*4.7	*4.9	*4.2	20.4
Total children who did not require (additional) formal care	694.9	695.9	721.0	729.3	2 841.1

Type of care(a)	Both parents employed working full-time(b)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents not in the labour force(b)	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	52.5	47.0	*1.8	8.6	—	*1.8	111.7
Long day care centre	45.5	67.8	7.8	33.1	*5.2	18.4	177.7
Family day care	34.1	37.4	*5.0	10.5	*3.6	5.5	96.2
Occasional care	5.6	19.7	*3.4	18.5	*1.8	*3.4	52.4
Preschool	20.5	66.8	11.4	77.0	5.7	19.2	200.6
Other formal care	*2.3	8.4	*2.0	7.8	n.p.	n.p.	22.2
Total children who used formal care	148.5	231.8	29.3	151.3	15.8	47.6	624.4
Total children who used formal care only	81.9	119.2	22.0	103.8	12.7	34.0	373.5
Informal care							
Brother/sister care	49.0	64.4	7.5	28.2	*2.1	13.9	165.1
Other relative	161.8	277.7	32.4	172.8	15.4	66.0	726.0
Non-relative	82.3	143.5	17.0	55.4	*1.9	17.8	318.0
Total children who used informal care	270.1	450.8	52.6	245.3	19.4	90.2	1 128.3
Total children who used informal care only	203.4	338.2	45.2	197.8	16.3	76.6	877.5
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	352.0	570.0	74.5	349.0	32.2	124.2	501.8
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	142.3	380.9	109.3	647.2	102.0	219.2	1 601.0
Total children	494.3	950.9	183.9	996.2	134.2	343.3	3 102.8
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	30.0	24.4	15.9	15.2	11.8	13.9	20.1
Total children who used informal care	54.6	47.4	28.6	24.6	14.5	26.3	36.4
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	71.2	59.9	40.5	35.0	24.0	36.2	48.4
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(b) Includes one-parent families.

	June 1987(a)	November 1990	June 1993	March 1996
<i>Labour force status of parents</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000
FORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	84.4	113.8	122.5	148.5
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	145.0	195.9	207.1	231.8
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	15.7	20.2	29.4	29.3
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	151.6	150.3	161.1	151.3
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	10.7	13.2	22.0	15.8
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	38.4	37.0	54.1	47.6
Total children who used formal care	455.2	530.4	596.2	624.4
INFORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	248.3	276.4	263.3	270.1
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	389.9	514.7	433.6	450.8
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	36.1	47.9	67.8	52.6
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	300.5	314.9	261.0	245.3
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	14.5	21.7	36.4	19.4
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	98.4	94.9	104.1	90.2
Total children who used informal care	1 106.4	1 270.5	1 166.2	1 128.3
TOTAL FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	288.4	336.2	328.9	352.0
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	458.1	594.5	532.3	570.0
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	45.5	62.2	85.7	74.5
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	407.3	408.3	367.0	349.0
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	23.4	32.2	51.1	32.2
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	122.3	115.1	139.9	124.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	1 370.3	1 548.5	1 504.9	1 501.8
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (%) (c)				
Males	75.3	75.1	73.6	73.8
Females	48.7	52.1	51.5	54.1
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) (c)				
Males	7.6	7.7	11.3	9.1
Females	8.1	7.0	9.7	8.6

(a) Totals include instances where the labour force status of parents is not known.

(b) Includes one parent families.

(c) Estimates for June 1987–June 1993 obtained from *Labour Force, Australia 1978–95* (6204.0). Estimates for March 1996 obtained from *Labour Force, Australia, March 1996* (6203.0).

WEEKLY HOURS WORKED BY PARENT.....

Type of care(a)	Less than 16	16-24	25-34	35-39	40 or more	Total employed	Total not employed	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FATHER								
Formal care								
Before and after school care program	*2.0	*3.5	10.3	20.8	55.0	91.5	*3.6	95.1
Long day care centre	6.3	*3.4	14.3	19.1	90.9	134.1	10.6	144.7
Family day care	*4.8	*3.2	7.1	10.7	48.1	73.8	6.1	79.9
Occasional care	*1.2	*1.2	*3.4	*5.3	32.8	43.8	*4.8	48.6
Preschool	11.1	*5.1	14.0	23.3	107.4	160.9	17.8	178.7
Other formal care	*2.3	n.p.	*1.3	*1.5	13.8	n.p.	n.p.	19.6
Total children who used formal care	27.0	15.4	48.2	77.3	325.6	493.6	41.3	535.0
Total children who used formal care only	17.2	10.3	26.1	48.7	191.4	293.8	34.6	328.3
Informal care								
Brother/sister care	7.5	*1.4	10.7	12.0	95.2	126.8	8.3	135.1
Other relative	30.8	19.7	48.8	74.7	379.1	553.1	30.1	583.2
Non-relative	10.5	7.8	22.5	28.5	189.1	258.5	9.8	268.3
Total children who used informal care	45.8	27.6	77.4	109.7	619.4	879.8	46.8	926.6
Total children who used informal care only	35.9	22.5	55.3	81.1	485.2	679.9	40.1	720.0
Total children who used formal/and or informal care	63.0	37.9	103.5	158.4	810.8	1 173.5	81.4	1 254.9
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	89.8	44.6	92.3	167.5	773.7	1 167.8	231.1	1 398.9
Total children in couple families	152.7	82.4	195.7	325.9	1 584.5	2 341.4	312.5	2 653.9
MOTHER								
Formal care								
Before and after school care program	14.8	19.2	15.9	16.9	21.6	88.4	6.7	95.1
Long day care centre	24.5	21.8	19.7	12.5	20.4	98.9	45.8	144.7
Family day care	12.8	9.7	15.7	8.8	14.1	61.2	18.7	79.9
Occasional care	11.9	6.0	n.p.	n.p.	*5.0	26.9	21.7	48.6
Preschool	35.7	20.8	15.7	*3.9	9.6	85.7	93.0	178.7
Other formal care	5.9	n.p.	*1.9	n.p.	--	9.5	10.1	19.6
Total children who used formal care	97.8	74.8	66.3	42.3	64.2	345.4	189.5	535.0
Total children who used formal care only	58.3	34.2	38.5	25.4	37.3	193.7	134.6	328.3
Informal care								
Brother/sister care	24.9	19.1	20.3	11.7	24.6	100.8	34.3	135.1
Other relative	114.7	86.7	69.0	42.5	64.0	377.0	206.3	583.2
Non-relative	46.9	50.3	36.9	22.5	40.7	197.2	71.0	268.3
Total children who used informal care	175.1	143.7	118.3	71.8	120.7	629.6	297.0	926.6
Total children who used informal care only	135.6	103.1	90.5	54.9	93.8	477.9	242.1	720.0
Total children who used formal/and or informal care	233.4	177.9	156.8	97.2	158.0	823.3	431.6	1 254.9
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	225.3	112.6	71.4	40.8	85.8	535.8	863.1	1 398.9
Total children in couple families	458.7	290.4	228.2	138.0	243.8	1 359.1	1 294.8	2 653.9

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

JUNE 1993.....

MARCH 1996.....

Leave taken to care for sick children	Both full-time	Father full-time/ mother part-time	Other(b)	Total	Both full-time	Father full-time/ mother part-time	Other(b)	Total
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)								
Father took time off								
Unpaid leave(c)	19.3	15.8	*58.0	18.9	16.1	13.9	n.p.	15.9
Flex/rostered day off	20.3	24.4	n.p.	21.8	20.6	14.6	n.p.	17.5
Family/special	17.9	13.8	n.p.	15.6	16.2	15.4	n.p.	15.4
Sick	25.1	29.2	—	26.3	23.4	20.0	—	21.1
Recreation	*10.1	*9.6	—	9.6	*6.2	*5.2	—	5.5
Other	—	—	—	n.p.	*3.0	n.p.	—	*2.9
No formal leave	17.4	*13.1	n.p.	15.7	22.1	27.1	n.p.	25.0
Total father took time off(d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother took time off								
Unpaid leave(c)	20.8	45.4	*25.3	33.8	17.7	35.7	*36.9	27.6
Flex/rostered day off	15.7	17.6	*25.0	16.9	12.6	7.9	—	9.8
Family/special	20.3	5.9	*21.4	12.8	17.2	8.5	n.p.	12.6
Sick	38.0	22.0	*16.6	29.1	31.0	15.9	*31.1	23.4
Recreation	9.9	*4.1	*5.2	6.8	7.2	*4.1	—	5.4
Other	—	—	—	—	*2.0	5.3	n.p.	4.1
No formal leave	7.2	12.6	*18.0	10.3	20.3	25.4	*23.4	23.0
Total mother took time off(d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)								
Father took time off	33.7	29.8	*2.0	65.5	43.5	41.9	*2.5	87.8
Father did not take time off	112.9	220.6	11.3	344.8	107.8	204.8	16.1	328.7
Mother took time off	67.5	77.6	*3.3	148.3	78.2	87.0	6.4	171.6
Mother did not take time off	79.1	172.9	10.0	261.9	73.1	159.6	12.2	245.0
Either parent took time off	78.7	90.8	*4.1	173.5	91.1	103.7	8.2	202.9
Neither parent took time off	67.9	159.7	9.1	236.7	60.2	142.9	10.4	213.6
All couple families with employed parents and children who were absent	146.6	250.4	13.2	410.3	151.3	246.6	18.6	416.5

(a) Refers to couple families with both parents employed and children who were absent from school or child care due to illness.

(b) Includes couple families with mother working full-time and father working part-time and couple families with both parents working part-time.

(c) Includes leave without pay.

(d) More than one type of leave could be taken, therefore, components do not add to totals.

	JUNE 1993.....			MARCH 1996.....		
Whether parent took time off work and type of leave taken to care for sick children	Working full-time	Working part-time	Total	Working full-time	Working part-time	Total
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)						
Type of leave taken(b)						
Unpaid leave(c)	32.3	45.9	38.5	*18.5	66.4	39.4
Flex/rostered day off	15.6	*13.0	14.4	*13.7	n.p.	*8.0
Family/special	*18.0	*6.6	*12.8	25.0	—	14.1
Sick	34.6	*19.7	27.8	36.6	*20.1	29.4
Recreation	*9.5	*10.3	*9.9	*10.5	n.p.	*6.9
Other	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.	*3.0
No formal leave	*4.9	*7.9	*6.3	*14.0	*11.6	13.0
Total type of leave taken	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)						
Parent took time off	15.7	13.2	28.9	20.1	15.6	35.8
Parent did not take time off	14.1	20.0	34.1	8.5	26.8	35.3
All one parent families with employed parent and children who were absent	29.8	33.2	63.0	28.6	42.4	71.0

(a) Refers to one parent families with parent employed and children who were absent from school or formal child care due to illness.

(c) Includes leave without pay.

(b) More than one type of leave could be taken, therefore, components do not add to totals.

JUNE 1993.....

MARCH 1996.....

Whether used arrangements and
type of arrangementsCouple
family(b)One parent
family(b)

Total

Couple
family(b)One parent
family(b)

Total

PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)

Arrangements used(c)						
Child looked after self	2.6	*6.7	3.3	4.2	*2.8	4.0
Child cared for by sibling	3.6	*7.0	4.2	*2.0	*3.1	2.2
Child cared for by other relative	51.8	64.3	53.9	53.6	60.4	54.7
Child care for by other person	15.6	20.9	16.5	13.0	19.9	14.1
Child taken to work	11.1	*9.1	10.8	12.7	11.5	12.5
Worked at home	23.9	*6.6	21.0	16.3	*4.7	14.3
Other	3.5	*2.2	3.3	8.2	*9.2	8.4
Total arrangements used	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)

Arrangements used	196.4	39.0	235.4	204.5	41.1	245.6
Arrangements not used	213.9	23.9	237.8	212.0	29.9	241.9
All families with employed parent(s) and children who were absent	410.3	63.0	473.2	416.5	71.0	487.5

(a) Refers to arrangements other than time off work.

(b) Comprises one parent families with parent employed, and couple families with both parents employed, with child(ren) who were absent from school or formal child care due to illness.

(c) Families may use more than one type of arrangement, therefore components do not add to totals.

	JUNE 1993.....			MARCH 1996.....		
Whether used work arrangements to care for children and type of work arrangement used	Families with an employed father	Families with an employed mother	All families with at least one parent employed	Families with an employed father	Families with an employed mother	All families with at least one parent employed
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)						
Work arrangements used(a)						
Flexible working hours	199.4	249.9	385.2	214.2	281.2	412.7
Permanent part-time work	9.5	236.6	248.6	17.6	260.4	275.0
Shiftwork	58.0	54.5	104.7	70.8	57.8	118.7
Work at home	84.5	156.8	202.3	88.4	164.7	216.0
Job sharing	7.4	24.9	28.6	10.5	36.0	41.1
Other	10.8	12.6	21.8	16.7	23.8	40.4
Total families which used work arrangements	312.2	572.4	710.4	340.9	617.6	756.7
Total families which did not use work arrangements	967.5	265.9	697.2	965.4	281.4	689.8
Total families with at least one parent employed	1 279.7	838.3	1 407.6	1 306.3	898.9	1 446.6
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)						
Work arrangements used(a)						
Flexible working hours	15.6	29.8	27.4	16.4	31.3	28.5
Permanent part-time work	0.7	28.2	17.7	1.3	29.0	19.0
Shiftwork	4.5	6.5	7.4	5.4	6.4	8.2
Work at home	6.6	18.7	14.4	6.8	18.3	14.9
Job sharing	0.6	3.0	2.0	0.8	4.0	2.8
Other	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.3	2.6	2.8
Total families which used work arrangements	24.4	68.3	50.5	26.1	68.7	52.3
Total families which did not use work arrangements	75.6	31.7	49.5	73.9	31.3	47.7
Total families with at least one parent employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(a) Components do not add to the total as parents could use more than one type of work arrangement.						

Parent and type of employer assistance with child care	WHETHER OFFERED.....		Total(a).....		WHETHER USED		Total offered.....	
	Offered assistance	Not offered assistance			Used	Not used		
	%	%	'000	%	%	%	'000	%
Father, all types of assistance	3.7	96.3	953.0	100.0	17.3	82.7	35.7	100.0
Mother, all types of assistance	6.6	93.4	732.7	100.0	32.9	67.1	48.0	100.0
Either parent(b)								
Work-based child care facilities	3.7	96.3	1 203.2	100.0	28.2	71.8	45.1	100.0
Reserved places in local child care centres	1.0	99.0	1 203.2	100.0	*13.0	87.0	11.5	100.0
Employer supported vacation care	0.8	99.2	1 203.2	100.0	*31.3	68.7	10.1	100.0
Child care referral/ information service	2.0	98.0	1 203.2	100.0	*18.0	82.0	24.2	100.0
Salary package which includes child care fees	0.4	99.6	1 203.2	100.0	*25.4	*74.6	4.9	100.0
Either parent, all types of assistance	6.2	93.8	1 203.2	100.0	27.0	73.0	74.1	100.0

(a) Refers to families where parent was an employee.

(b) Components do not add to total as more than one type of employer assistance could be offered and/or used.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in March 1996. It is a continuation of a series of surveys on this topic, conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 1993. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on the use of, and demand for, child care for children aged less than 12 years. Information was also collected on the use and non-use of the Childcare Cash Rebate as well as the working arrangements of parents with children under 12.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The Child Care Survey was conducted as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, etc.). The MPS is described more fully in *Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

3 Information for the Child Care Survey was collected only from private dwellings with children under 12 years of age resident in the selected dwelling. Children visiting the dwelling were excluded. A number of questions applicable to the family were asked only once for each family and were included on the first questionnaire completed for a child in that family.

4 Also excluded were an estimated 7,000 children living in remote and sparsely settled parts of the Northern Territory. These children were estimated to account for around 18% of the Northern Territory's population under 12 years of age.

SURVEY METHOD

5 Information about the use of, and demand for child care was obtained through interviews conducted over a two-week period between 11 and 23 March 1996. Data collected on the use of child care related to the week prior to interview.

6 Information was obtained from the child's parent, step-parent or guardian. The classification into care type was generally based on the respondent's perception. During the interview they were shown cards listing the types of care and only if they asked for clarification, were they given a more detailed description.

DEMAND FOR FORMAL CARE

7 Indicators of demand for formal child care services have been collected in child care surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for some time. The 1996 survey asked parents whether they wanted to use any, or additional, formal care services in the four weeks preceding the survey.

8 There has been a change in question wording for the 1996 survey. Previous surveys asked the question, 'Was there any time in the last four weeks when you would have liked to use any (more) of these services?'. This is in comparison to the wording of the 1996 survey, which asked 'Was there any time in the last four weeks when [you/you and (*spouse/partner*)] wanted to use any (more) of these services for [the child], but didn't?'.¹

9 Additional requirements for child care identified in response to a survey question will not necessarily all be the kind that would attract increased public provision of child care services. They fit into the category of demand that Bradshaw¹ describes as *felt need*, that is, a requirement as articulated by an individual, judging his or her own circumstances.

¹ Bradshaw J, 'The concept of social need', *New Society* 19:496:640-643 (1972).

10 A limitation of using *felt need* as an unqualified measure of demand for a service is that it does not indicate under what conditions the demand would become effective. Further information gathered in ABS child care surveys has been designed to address this as far as is possible. Thus, if formal care was required, parents were then asked what type of care was required for their children, and how much. If formal care was not required, parents were asked why they did not need this type of care. Parents who stated they had a requirement for formal care were also asked whether the care was available to be used during the four week reference period. If they reported that the care was available, they were then asked why they did not use it. If respondents answered that the service was not available, they were asked the main reason why they perceived it as being unavailable.

11 A demand measure can also be derived by reference to minimum standards of social provision established by policy makers and relevant experts. This is referred to as *normative need* because it is based on established norms or values. Information from the Child Care Survey on the family size and income of those using formal care enables the impact of such norms as exist in service eligibility criteria to be observed.

12 Bradshaw's typology of social need also includes concepts of *expressed need*, based on action taken by individuals, and *comparative need*, where relative standards applying to groups in society are established. None of these measures alone is capable of giving an accurate measure of the broad and complex nature of social need. Policy makers depend on a range of measures in order to plan service levels and to target delivery. These must also be related to criteria for using a particular service and who this service is aimed at. Data from this survey can be used to develop complex models and resource allocation formulas in order to assist the policy making decision process.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

13 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Australia's Families—Selected Findings from the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia (4418.0)

Australian Social Trends (4102.0)

Australian Women's Year Book 1995 (4124.0)

Career Experience, Australia (6254.0)

Child Care, Australia, June 1993 (4402.0)

Employment Benefits, Australia (6334.0)

Focus on Families—Work and Family Responsibilities (4422.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, 1993–94 Detailed Expenditure Items (6535.0)

How Australians Use Their Time—Selected Findings from the 1992 Time Use Survey, Australia (4153.0)

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (6222.0)

NSW Families—A Profile 1994 (4426.1)

Working Arrangements, Australia (6342.0)

14 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products*, (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

TECHNICAL NOTES

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ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that they conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and State. Estimates of the distribution of households by State and number of persons were also used to improve the estimation procedure.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

2 Estimates provided in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

3 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. These errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response; inaccurate reporting by respondents; errors in the application of survey procedures; incorrect recording of answers; and errors in data entry and processing.

4 It is difficult to measure the size of non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effects of these errors.

SAMPLING ERROR

5 Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATES

6 One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the *standard error* (SE). This measures the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of households was included. There are about two chances in three that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20, that it is within two standard errors. That is, there are 19 chances in 20 that the true estimate is in the range:

$x - 2SE(x)$ to $x + 2SE(x)$
(where x is the estimate)

7 The SE of an estimate may be obtained from the tables below.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS

8 The SE can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the *relative standard error* (RSE). Whilst the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases, the RSE will decrease so that larger estimates are relatively more reliable than smaller ones.

9 The RSE is determined by dividing the SE of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = SE(x) \times \left(\frac{100}{x} \right)$$

10 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the RSE of a proportion or percentage is—

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

11 Only estimates with an RSE of less than 25% are regarded as sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger RSE have been included in this publication, preceded by an * to indicate that they should only be used with caution.

Standard errors for estimates of number of children

Estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
STANDARD ERROR									
'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5
2	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8
3	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.0
4	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.2
5	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.3
10	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.9
15	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.4
20	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.1	2.7
30	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.3	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	3.3
50	4.7	4.1	3.6	2.8	2.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	4.3
100	6.0	5.3	5.0	3.6	3.8	2.1	2.1	1.6	5.8
150	6.9	6.2	6.0	4.2	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.8	7.0
200	7.6	6.9	6.8	4.6	4.9	2.5	2.8	1.9	7.9
300	8.6	8.0	8.2	5.3	5.7	2.6	3.2	2.0	9.3
500	9.8	9.4	10.4	6.2	6.8	2.8	3.9	2.2	11.3
1 000	11.5	11.7	14.1	7.5	8.7	3.0	5.0	2.4	14.6
2 000	13.2	14.3	19.1	9.1	11.0	3.2	6.4	2.6	18.5
RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR									
'000	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	63.6	62.3	50.7	45.6	52.5	35.6	33.0	32.7	50.8
2	48.4	45.2	36.3	32.7	36.2	25.4	22.1	22.2	38.6
3	40.7	37.1	29.7	26.7	29.0	20.6	17.5	17.5	32.6
4	35.7	32.2	25.8	23.0	24.7	17.6	14.7	14.7	28.8
5	32.2	28.8	23.1	20.5	21.8	15.5	12.9	12.8	26.1
10	22.9	20.0	16.3	14.1	14.8	10.3	8.6	8.2	19.0
15	18.5	16.1	13.3	11.2	11.7	8.0	6.7	6.3	15.6
20	15.8	13.7	11.5	9.5	9.9	6.6	5.7	5.1	13.6
30	12.6	10.9	9.3	7.5	7.8	5.0	4.4	3.9	11.1
50	9.3	8.1	7.1	5.5	5.7	3.5	3.2	2.7	8.5
100	6.0	5.3	4.9	3.6	3.8	2.1	2.1	1.6	5.8
150	4.6	4.1	4.0	2.8	2.9	1.5	1.6	1.2	4.6
200	3.8	3.4	3.4	2.3	2.4	1.2	1.4	0.9	3.9
300	2.8	2.6	2.7	1.7	1.9	0.9	1.1	0.7	3.1
500	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.2	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	2.3
1 000	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.5
2 000	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.9

GLOSSARY

Area of usual residence	<p><i>State Capital Cities:</i> This includes the Statistical Divisions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Please note that Darwin and Canberra are <i>excluded</i> from this category.</p> <p><i>Balance of Australia:</i> Includes all areas outside of the capital cities mentioned above plus Canberra and Darwin.</p>
Before and after school care program	A type of formal care available to school-aged children before and/or after school hours.
Brother/sister care	Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.
Child care	Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.
Childcare Cash Rebate (CCR)	The Childcare Cash Rebate scheme pays families a percentage of their work-related child care costs. It is not means tested. It is funded by the Department of Health and Family Services and paid through Medicare offices.
Children	Refers to all children under 12 years of age in scope for the survey.
Cost of care	Money paid by parents for child to attend child care (including no cost).
Eligible children for the CCR	Children who used work-related care for which their parents paid, where the total fees for work-related care for the family were at least \$16.50, and the family had not already received the maximum weekly rebate allowable (\$28.20 per week for one child, \$61.20 per week for two or more children).
Employed persons, employees	<p>See <i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (6203.0) for more details. To facilitate data collection, the 1993 and 1996 Child Care Surveys used a slightly different definition of 'employee' from the standard ABS definition. The Child Care Surveys included the following, normally excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ those who worked for less than one hour in the reference week; and ♦ persons on leave without pay for more than four weeks; <p>and excluded the following persons, who would normally be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ persons receiving payment in kind from an employer; and ♦ persons operating their own incorporated enterprise, with or without hiring employees.
Family	For the purpose of this publication, a family consists of one or two parents and one or more children under 12 years of age, regardless of whether older children or other relatives are also usually resident.
Family day care	A type of formal care offered in private homes by registered carers, available for a full day to children of all ages.
Family type	Refers to one parent or couple families.
Father	The natural, adopted or step father of the child; or the male legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the mother.
Full-time/part-time workers	<p><i>Full-time workers</i> are employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.</p> <p><i>Part-time workers</i> are employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.</p>

GLOSSARY *continued*

Formal care	Regulated care away from the child's home, which includes Preschool; Before and after school care program; Long day care centre; Family day care; Occasional care and Other formal care.
Informal care	Non-regulated care either in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by (step)brothers or sisters; care by relatives (including non-custodial parent) and by non-relatives such as friends, neighbours or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.
Long day care centre	Regulated, centre-based care which is available to children between birth and school age for the full day. Centres are usually open for most of the year.
Main type of (additional) formal	Main type of (additional) formal care required for children already using formal care and for those children who do not use any. Respondents were asked 'was there any time in the last four weeks when they would have liked to use any (more) formal care services'. See 'Demand for Formal Care' in the Explanatory Notes.
Mother	The natural, adopted or step mother of the child; or the female legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the father.
Non-relative care	Care by people who are not related to the child.
Occasional care	Regulated care, which is generally available to children between birth and school age for short periods of time to allow parents to shop, attend appointments, or to take brief breaks from parenting.
Other formal care	This includes any other non home-based formal care whose primary function is the care of children for short periods of time. It also includes adjunct care. An example is; facilities available at a fitness centre to care for the child while the parent participates in the centre's activities.
Other relative care	Care by relations of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters; includes the child's grandparents as well as in-laws, ex-wives/husbands of the parent interviewed.
Preschool	A type of formal care generally available in school hours during school terms for children from three years of age (younger children are sometimes accepted) up to the school starting age. Children usually have fixed attendance times. Also known as kindergarten in some States.
Reason used care	The respondent was asked to identify their main reason for using child care. <i>Work-related reasons</i> include looking for work and studying/training for work. <i>Personal reasons</i> include non work-related study or training, shopping, entertainment, social or sporting activities, give parents a break/time alone, care for relatives, visit doctor, or undertake voluntary/community activities. <i>Beneficial for child reasons</i> include good for child and to prepare them for school.
Take-up rate	The take-up rate for the Childcare Cash Rebate is the proportion of eligible children whose parents claimed or intended to claim the rebate.

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA?

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the ABS can produce upon request customised tables presenting any of the following information included in the survey. Inquiries should be made to the contact person shown at the front of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

DEMOGRAPHIC ITEMS

- Number of children aged under 12 in family
- Sex of child
- Age of child
- Country of birth of child
- Year of arrival of child
- Whether language other than English spoken at home
- Main language spoken at home
- School attendance
- Total income of each parent
- Main source of income
- Family type
- Area of usual residence

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

- Type of care arrangements used
- Days of attendance
- Hours of care
- Time of day (only available for Informal Care and Before and After School Care)
- Cost of care
- Reasons for use of child care

CHILDCARE CASH REBATE (CCR)

- Whether the CCR was claimed
- Reasons for not claiming
- Type of care for which CCR claimed

DEMAND FOR FORMAL CARE

- Type of formal care required
- Number of days (additional) formal care required
- Reasons for requiring/not requiring (additional) formal care
- Reasons (additional) formal care not available
- Reasons for not using (additional) formal care if available

EMPLOYER ASSISTED CHILD CARE

- Type of child care assistance provided by employer
- Whether employer assistance used by parent

For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

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